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Summary record of the 7th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 13 October 1998, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Macedo ..... (Mexico)

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98-81585 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

Organization of work (A/C.4/53/L.5)

1. **The Chairman** said that the Committee would take action on draft decisions and draft resolutions in the order in which they were listed in the document on organization of work (A/C.4/53/L.5).

Agenda item 18: Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (Territories not covered under other agenda items) *(continued)*

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Agenda item 90: Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories *(continued)*

Draft resolution relating to information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations, submitted under agenda item 87 (A/53/23 (Part IV), chap. VIII, para. 7)

2. **The Chairman** informed the Committee that a recorded vote had been requested.

3. **Mr. Scott** (United States of America) said that his delegation would abstain as it had done for seven years because the draft resolution in question gave the General Assembly the right to determine if a Territory had become self-governing within the meaning of the Charter. His Government believed that in the final analysis it was for the administering Power to determine when the provisions of Article 73 *e* of the Charter no longer applied.

4. *A recorded vote was taken.*

In favour:

Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Slovakia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

None.

Abstaining:

France, Israel, Monaco, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

5. *The draft resolution was adopted by 116 votes to none, with 5 abstentions.*

6. **Ms. Smith** (United Kingdom), speaking in explanation of vote, said that, as in previous years, her delegation had abstained on the draft resolution because her Government, which was continuing to meet its obligations under Article 73 *e* of the Charter in respect of the United Kingdom Overseas Territories it administered, did not agree with the statement in paragraph 2 of the draft resolution that it was for the General Assembly to decide when a Non-Self-Governing Territory had reached a level of self-government sufficient to relieve the administering Power of the obligation to submit information under Article 73 *e* of the Charter. Such decisions must be left to the government of the Territory in question and to the administering Power concerned.

7. **The Chairman** said he took it that the Committee had concluded its consideration of agenda item 87.

8. *It was so decided.*

Draft resolution relating to economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, submitted under agenda item 88 (A/53/23 (Part III), chap. V, para. 8)

9. **Mr. Scott** (United States of America) said that he was requesting a separate vote on deleting paragraph 7 of the draft resolution. His delegation opposed the underlying principle of the draft that the mere presence of foreign economic activities in a Non-Self-Governing Territory prejudiced the exercise of the right to self-determination. Although the draft was a distinct improvement over the corresponding texts of previous years, the United States would vote against it if paragraph 7 was not deleted or amended. The paragraph served no purpose since paragraphs 4 and 5 already expressed the considerations behind it, and the conclusion to be drawn from it would be that it was to be assumed that there were foreign economic activities in any dependent Territory because of its very status as a Territory. Illicit fishing activities were always damaging wherever they occurred, but paragraph 7 supposed that such activities were endemic to dependent Territories, and his Government took issue with that idea.

10. It was well known that the United States had created conservation zones and marine reserves in its Territories and that it had always sought to promote environmental protection and biological diversity. The unconditional transfer of some Territories and the resources found there would therefore be a sensitive issue. No United Nations report had ever documented any harmful effects from foreign economic activities in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. His delegation wondered whether the Committee should continue to consider the resolution in question year after year, recalling that the United States Virgin Islands delegation had stated more than once that it would be better to assign the consideration of certain aspects of the resolution to other committees.

11. **Mr. Mekdad** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that, while he understood the point of view of the United States delegation, his Government believed that colonialism had particularly serious consequences for the economic situation of colonized territories. His delegation would therefore vote in favour of retaining paragraph 7 of the draft resolution.

12. **Mr. Scott** (United States of America) once again urged delegations to take a separate vote on paragraph 7 of the draft resolution.

13. **The Chairman** said that the Committee could apply rule 89 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly or could proceed directly to a vote on the United States proposal that paragraph 7 of the draft resolution should be deleted. In order not to waste time, he suggested that a recorded vote should be taken on the deletion of paragraph 7.

14. *It was so decided.*

15. *A recorded vote was taken.*

In favour:

Israel, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Against:

Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Bangladesh, Belarus, Bolivia, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chile, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, Fiji, Guinea, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Niger, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Russian Federation, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Abstaining:

Andorra, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Belgium, Benin, Canada, Cape Verde, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Republic of Korea, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine.

16. *The United States proposal was rejected by 60 votes to 3, with 42 abstentions.*

17. *A recorded vote was taken on the draft resolution as a whole, as reproduced in document A/53/23 (Part III), chapter V, paragraph 8.*

In favour:

Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China,

Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining:

France, Monaco, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

18. *The draft resolution, as reproduced in document A/53/23, part III, chapter V, paragraph 8, was adopted by 120 votes to 2, with 3 abstentions.*

19. **The Chairman** said he took it that the Committee had concluded its consideration of agenda item 88.

20. *It was so decided.*

Draft decision submitted under agenda item 18: Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in territories under their administration (A/53/23 (Part III), chap. VI, para. 7)

21. **The Chairman** informed the Committee that a recorded vote had been requested on the draft decision.

22. **Mr. Scott** (United States of America), speaking in explanation of vote before the voting, said that his Government was firmly opposed to the premise on which the draft decision was based, namely, that the mere existence of military interests in a Non-Self-Governing Territory was prejudicial to the exercise of the right to self-determination. The right of self-defence was recognized by the Charter of the United Nations. Furthermore, it was commonly acknowledged that States and their peoples had the right to provide themselves with a common defence system. Each situation must be examined in context. It had never been established that the military bases on Guam were preventing the people of that Territory from exercising their right to self-determination. His delegation urged the Committee to reject the draft decision.

23. *A recorded vote was taken.*

In favour:

Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Bolivia, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chile, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Ghana, Grenada, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Malaysia, Maldives, Mexico, Mongolia, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Niger, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Andorra, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Canada, Cape Verde, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Belarus, Russian Federation.

24. *The draft decision was adopted by 74 votes to 44, with 2 abstentions.*

25. **Mr. Wimmer** (Austria), speaking in explanation of vote on behalf of the European Union, said that four years ago, the Union had discussed with the Special Committee the adoption of a more pragmatic approach, with a view to making it possible to reach consensus on some controversial

issues before the Committee. The European Union welcomed the fact that in 1997 the consolidated draft resolution on small Territories had been adopted without a vote and that progress had been made towards reaching a consensus on the resolution concerning economic activities. Nevertheless, in 1998 it was again compelled to oppose the draft decision on military activities, since it referred to an issue that was not included on the list of matters which the General Assembly had referred to the Special Committee.

Draft resolution submitted under agenda item 89 on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations (A/53/23 (Part IV), chap. VII, para. 11).

26. **The Chairman** informed the Committee that a recorded vote had been requested on the draft resolution.

27. **Mr. Scott** (United States of America), speaking in explanation of vote before the voting, said that his delegation would abstain, judging it neither appropriate nor necessary to establish a link between the activities of the specialized agencies and the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and that such activities were already regulated by the mandate guidelines of each agency.

28. *A recorded vote was taken.*

In favour:

Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Benin, Bolivia, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

None.

Abstaining:

Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

29. *The draft resolution was adopted by 85 votes to 0, with 41 abstentions.*

30. **Mr. Wimmer** (Austria), speaking in explanation of vote on behalf of the European Union, said that the Union was consistent in wishing to support the endeavours of the specialized agencies to provide assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories, in particular in the humanitarian and technical fields, in addition to the educational field, but believed that the mandates of those agencies must be strictly respected.

31. **The Chairman** said that the Committee had concluded its consideration of agenda item 89.

32. *It was so decided.*

Draft resolution submitted under agenda item 90 relating to offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories (A/C.4/53/L.3)

33. **The Chairman** announced that Jamaica, the Philippines and the Sudan had joined the co-sponsors of the draft resolution, who hoped that the Committee would adopt the draft without a vote.

34. *The draft resolution was adopted without a vote.*

35. **The Chairman** said that the Committee had concluded consideration of agenda item 90.

36. *It was so decided.*

Draft resolutions submitted under agenda item 18 relating to specific Territories (A/C.4/53/L.2, A/C.4/53/L.4, A/53/23 (Part V), (Part VI), (Part VII) and (Part VIII))

Programme budget implications of the draft resolutions

37. **Mr. Sattar** (Secretary of the Committee), said that the adoption of the draft resolutions submitted under agenda item 18 relating to specific Territories would have no additional programme budget implications, as those texts were covered by the resources provided in chapter I D (Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services) of the programme budget for the 1998–1999 biennium.

Draft decision relating to the question of Gibraltar (A/C.4/53/L.2)

38. **The Chairman** proposed that the Committee should adopt the draft decision without a vote.

39. *The draft decision relating to the question of Gibraltar was adopted without a vote.*

Draft resolution on Western Sahara (A/C.4/53/L.4)

40. **The Chairman** drew the Committee's attention to the draft resolution and asked whether it would be prepared to waive rule 120 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly. He said that if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to waive that rule.

41. *It was so decided.*

Budget implications of the draft resolution on Western Sahara

42. **Mr. Sattar** (Secretary of the Committee), having read out paragraphs 7 to 10 of the draft resolution, summarized the situation as described in the report of the Secretary-General (A/1998/849) of 11 September 1998. An extension of the MINURSO mandate would have no financial implications for the regular budget. The activities requested in paragraphs 9 and 10 of the draft resolution would be covered by the resources provided in chapters I B and 2 A respectively of the programme budget for the 1998–1999 biennium.

43. **Mr. Snoussi** (Morocco) said that his country did not consider that the question of Western Sahara came within the remit of the Special Committee, in particular since the Security Council had taken up the matter. He welcomed the progress that had been made, but regretted the numerous obstacles that had been created by the other party, particularly the constraints to which refugees in the Hamada camps were subjected. He was afraid that the other party might exploit the repatriation operation in order to keep those refugees under its control and influence, and that it would continue to demonstrate the bad faith and lack of goodwill which had hitherto characterized its attitude. Despite the years that had been lost as a result of the other party's procrastination, Morocco had not despaired and would continue to cooperate fully with the Secretary-General, his Special Representative and his Personal Representative. The statement made by the Secretary of the Committee went beyond strictly budgetary limits, and he would like to see the written text.

44. **Mr. Islam** (Pakistan) said he also wished the statement made by the Secretary of the Committee to be distributed as a Committee document.

45. **The Chairman** said that he would see what he could do, but that the matter was a delicate one. He proposed that the Committee should adopt the draft resolution without a vote.

46. *The draft resolution concerning Western Sahara was adopted without a vote.*

47. **Ms. Proidel** (Austria), speaking on behalf of the European Union, the Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated country Cyprus and the European Free Trade Association country member of the European Economic Area Norway, welcomed the adoption of the resolution by consensus. The European Union had always supported the holding of a free, fair and impartial referendum on the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara. While taking note of the progress achieved over the past months, the European Union expressed concern regarding the question of the three tribal groups, which remained unresolved. In addition, it shared the concern of the Secretary-General regarding the delays and lack of cooperation with UNHCR. It encouraged the parties to cooperate fully with the High Commissioner for Refugees to enable Saharan refugees to be repatriated. The European Union reiterated its support to the Secretary-General, his Personal Envoy and his Special Representative and paid tribute to the crucial role which MINURSO continued to play in the peace process.

48. **Mr. Lewis** (Antigua and Barbuda) said that he was not convinced that the settlement plan was one that would inspire confidence in the parties and doubted that any real progress had been made in the situation. The question of Western Sahara was indeed one of decolonization, and he hoped that the Saharan people could soon become master of its destiny.

49. **Mr. Diop** (Senegal) thanked the representative of Morocco for his brilliant intervention and agreed that the settlement of that question was outside the competence of the Fourth Committee. He was nevertheless pleased that it had been possible to adopt the draft resolution by consensus.

Draft resolution on New Caledonia (A/53/23 (Part V), chap. IX, para. 33)

50. **Mr. Zipper de Fabiani** (France) said that the Noumea Accord, signed on 5 May 1998, provided for taking Kanak identity more broadly into account in the political and social organization of New Caledonia. It also provided for modification of the institutions of New Caledonia and shared sovereignty through a considerable and progressive transfer of powers. Moreover, under the Accord, New Caledonia would be able to exercise some powers in international relations, particularly on the regional level. Access to full sovereignty would be the subject of a referendum after a period of 15 to 20 years. Furthermore, the Accord contained provisions relating to the United Nations and provided that "The progress made in the emancipation process shall be brought to the attention of the United Nations."

51. Lastly, the procedure for approval of the Noumea Accord was already in progress, the National Assembly and the Senate at a joint meeting having already approved the constitutional act on New Caledonia on 6 July 1998.

52. In conclusion, he stressed that the Accord was voluntary, and had been reached in a spirit of compromise and reconciliation. He also stressed the spirit of consensus which had inspired the draft resolution, which he hoped would be adopted by the Committee. The correct version of the text had been issued as A/AC.109/L.1878/Rev.1* (reissued for technical reasons), and it was that version which should appear in the Committee's report to the General Assembly.

53. **The Chairman** invited the Commission to adopt the draft resolution without a vote.

54. *The draft resolution on New Caledonia was adopted.*

55. **Mr. Ovia** (Papua New Guinea) paid tribute to the spirit of compromise shown by France, which demonstrated what the administering Powers could do to reach a satisfactory solution to the question of Non-Self-Governing Territories. However, it would be a very long time before New Caledonia would attain full sovereignty, and therefore it would be important to continue to follow closely the situation in the Territory.

Consolidated draft resolution concerning American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands (A/53/23 (Part VI) chap. X, para. 9)

56. **Mr. Mekdad** (Syrian Arab Republic), Rapporteur of the Special Committee on Decolonization, read out several amendments proposed by the delegation of the United Kingdom to the draft resolution. The Special Committee had accepted those amendments, thereby showing its willingness to cooperate with administering Powers. The text of the amendments had been circulated to all States members of the Special Committee; none had raised any objections. They would be introduced Territory by Territory.

Oral amendments to the draft resolution

57. In part III concerning Bermuda, in the fourth preambular paragraph, the phrase "the report of the intended closures of bases" should be replaced by "the closure of bases". In paragraph 3, the second line, the words "of development" should be deleted; in the third line, "certain military bases and installations" should be replaced by "United States military bases and installations". He hoped that consultations had taken place between the delegations of the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

58. In part VI concerning Montserrat, in the sixth preambular paragraph, the second line, "one third" should be replaced by "two thirds". In paragraph 2, at the end of the second line the words "continue to" should be inserted before "provide".

59. In part VIII concerning St. Helena, the second preambular paragraph should be replaced by the following: "*Welcoming* the appointment of a commission of inquiry to examine and report on the current Constitution in the light of the request by the Legislative Council of St. Helena that the administering Power conduct a constitutional review in the Territory,". At the end of the fifth preambular paragraph, after "food production" the phrase "and the continuing negotiations to allow access to Ascension Island by civilian charter flights" should be added.

60. In part IX concerning the Turks and Caicos Islands, the second preambular paragraph should be deleted.

61. **The Chairman** said that, as the amendments had been proposed by one of the administering Powers and accepted by the Special Committee, the Fourth Committee should be able to approve them.

62. **Mr. Dausá Cespedes** (Cuba), Chairman of the Special Committee, said that paragraphs 1 and 2 of part VI of the

draft resolution, concerning Montserrat, had been reversed in the Spanish version.

63. **The Chairman** said that the Secretariat would see that the text was identical in all versions. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee accepted the amendments submitted by the representative of Syria as proposed by the United Kingdom.

64. *It was so decided.*

65. **The Chairman** proposed that the Committee should begin its consideration of the draft resolution as orally amended.

66. **Mr. Scott** (United States of America) said that the consolidated resolution was no longer what it had been because a key element was missing: the question of Guam. His delegation regretted that the question had been made the subject of a separate draft resolution, calling into question all the efforts made in good faith by the parties involved over a period of many years, to reach a compromise. The new text, which had been drafted and adopted by the Special Committee without taking into consideration the concerns of the administering Power, treated years of dialogue as worthless. His delegation did not understand why the question of Guam would receive treatment different from that of the other Territories under United States administration. It remained convinced, nevertheless, that by continuing the negotiations and dialogue with the Special Committee, a consensus text on the question of Guam could be achieved.

67. While his delegation was fully aware that Guam was a Non-Self-Governing Territory that aspired to a clearer definition of its status and perhaps to an eventual decision by the people for independence, it wished to specify that those people themselves had expressed, through their elected representatives, their desire to strengthen their status as a commonwealth of the United States.

68. He referred to the close ties between Guam and the United States, for evidence of which it was necessary to look no further than the forthcoming visit of the President of the United States to the Territory and a draft resolution that had recently been submitted to the United States Congress by a Representative, Mr. Underwood, to commemorate 100 years of friendly relations between Guam and the United States. The resolution in question had been prepared jointly by the people of Guam and the people of the United States, acting through their elected representatives in Congress. It was to be hoped that the Committee and the Special Committee on Decolonization would endeavour to draft a text in a similar spirit.

69. In conclusion, he said that his delegation would be prepared to agree that the consolidated draft resolution should be adopted by consensus, on one condition: that the question of Guam was postponed until such time as wording acceptable to all the parties concerned could be found and agreement was reached on a text that could be attached to the consolidated resolution for submission to the General Assembly. Otherwise, his delegation might be unable to join in a consensus on the consolidated resolution when it was considered by the General Assembly.

70. **Mr. Zahid** (Morocco) said that, if he had understood the matter correctly, the United States delegation would be prepared to accept the consolidated draft resolution without a vote on condition that consideration of the resolution on Guam was postponed. He feared that, in the event agreement was not reached on that point, the United States delegation might subsequently request a vote on the consolidated draft resolution and the Committee's decision might then be rejected by the General Assembly. Accordingly, he proposed that consideration of both draft resolutions (the consolidated draft resolution and the draft resolution on Guam) should be postponed until such time as the matter could be further clarified.

71. **The Chairman** said that he would conduct further consultations on the question of Guam. While he realized that the question of Guam and the matter of the consolidated draft resolution were obviously related, he wished to emphasize that the agreement which the United States delegation and the Special Committee had reached was to the effect that the consolidated draft resolution would be adopted by consensus that same day, and consideration of the question of Guam would be postponed. He feared that if the Moroccan representative's proposal was accepted, the situation might become further complicated. He therefore suggested that the formula which had originally been agreed upon should be retained.

72. **Mr. Zahid** (Morocco) said that his delegation was prepared to accede to the Chairman's suggestion, but that his concern remained.

73. **The Chairman** thanked the representative of Morocco for his constructive attitude, but said he wished to make it clear that the agreement which had been reached was based on the understanding that the draft consolidated resolution would be adopted without a vote; if it were not, the Special Committee might refuse to negotiate on the question of Guam.

74. **Mr. Dausá Cespedes** (Cuba) said that he fully endorsed the Chairman's position. It was important that the agreement in question should be adhered to and that the

consolidated draft resolution should be approved without a vote.

75. **Mr. Scott** (United States of America) thanked the representative of Morocco for his efforts and asked the members of the Committee to try to appreciate his delegation's tireless efforts to arrive at a consensus, both on the matter of the consolidated draft resolution and on the question of Guam and the other decolonization issues.

76. **The Chairman** said he took it that the Committee wished to adopt the consolidated draft resolution, as orally revised.

77. *It was so decided.*

Draft resolution on Tokelau (A/53/23 (Part VII), chap. XI, para. 9)

78. *The draft resolution was adopted.*

79. **Mr. Ovia** (Papua New Guinea) thanked the Government of New Zealand for its unstinted cooperation with the Special Committee, especially with the sponsors of the draft resolution, including its main sponsors, Papua New Guinea and Fiji. He also thanked the people of Tokelau, and noted that that Territory had also been included in the consolidated draft resolution, but that, following an agreement between its representatives and New Zealand, it had been made the subject of a separate draft resolution which had been adopted by consensus.

Draft resolution on Guam (A/53/23 (Part VIII), chap. XII, para. 9)

80. **The Chairman** said he took it that the Committee wished to postpone consideration of the draft resolution on Guam so that consultations between the Special Committee and the delegation of the United States could take place. He also stated that he had received a letter from the Government of Guam, and that he had asked the Secretariat to place the text of that letter at the disposal of the members of the Committee.

81. **Mr. Scott** (United States of America) said that he would have copies of the draft resolution before the United States Congress distributed to Committee members. He noted in that connection that the draft resolution submitted by Mr. Underwood was worded in terms that were not altogether identical with those he had used in the letter from the Government of Guam addressed to the Fourth Committee.

82. **Mr. Ovia** (Papua New Guinea) thanked the United States delegation for the highly valuable information that it had given to the Special Committee, but noted that, according to the agreement between the Special Committee and the United States delegation, the people of Guam were to be associated with the consultations. He hoped that Mr. Underwood would address the Government of the United States in the same terms he had used in addressing the Fourth Committee.

83. **The Chairman** said that, as a member of the Committee, he had always felt that one of the most troublesome problems, and one that could generate the most confusion, was the disparate manner in which the Special Committee submitted its draft resolutions. As a corrective measure, he suggested that the draft resolutions should be issued in a single document, which could subsequently be incorporated into the Committee's report. That procedure should facilitate the consideration and adoption of resolutions and decisions. He hoped that the Special Committee would take his suggestion into account. He wished to emphasize that, in making that suggestion, he was not commenting in any way on the substance of the draft resolutions in question, but only seeking to simplify the Committee's work.

84. **Mr. Mekdad** (Syrian Arab Republic) said he endorsed the Chairman's suggestion. The problem was exclusively technical in nature, and could be easily resolved. He promised to do his utmost, with the assistance of the Secretariat and the other members of the Special Committee, to ensure that the Committee would be presented with a document that was homogeneous, clear and manageable.

The meeting rose at 5.35 p.m.